

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (USPN 6,584,502) (hereinafter “Natarajan”).

Claim 1 recites:

A method comprising:
assigning a plurality of devices to a group;
assigning at least one event-handling policy to the group, wherein the assigned policy is associated with each of the plurality of devices in the group; and
evaluating a current state of each device before the assigned policy is applied to the device.

The Office Action argues that Natarajan discloses that “ADMIN and USER both can modify or change the policies” and that “changing includes assigning”. (Office Action, page 6). Natarajan describes a technique for providing automatic event notification of changing network conditions to network elements in an adaptive, feedback-based data network. Natarajan discloses plug-in policy modules 254b-e in a policy engine 254. Natarajan also discloses that policy modules 254b-e may include multiple policies. (See Natarajan, Fig. 5C; col. 14, lines 33-67). However, Natarajan does not disclose or suggest assigning “devices” to the plug-in modules. Thus, even though Natarajan discloses modules having policies, Natarajan fails to disclose “assigning a plurality of devices to a group”, as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action also argues that Fig. 17 in Natarajan “shows evaluating, re-evaluating, notifying and dynamically modifying the policy”. (Office Action, page 6). Fig. 17 shows a flow diagram of how the feedback-based network adapts to changing conditions resulted from a video conference. (See Natarajan, col. 29, line 60 to col. 32, lines 55). In Fig. 17, the method in Natarajan includes the evaluation of a policy. However, Natarajan does not disclose or suggest “evaluating a current state of each device before the assigned policy is applied to the device”, as recited in Claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Natarajan and is allowable. Given that Claims 2-9 depend from Claim 1, Claims 2-9 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 18 recites:

One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, performs the process of:

- assigning a plurality of devices to a group;
- identifying an event-handling policy associated with the group of devices;
- assigning the event-handling policy to the group of devices; and
- evaluating a current state of each device before the assigned event-handling policy is applied to the device.

Claim 18 stands rejected based on the same reasons given for rejecting Claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that independent Claim 18 and dependent Claims 19-20 are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Claim 10 recites:

An apparatus comprising:
a group of devices having an associated event-handling policy;
an event log configured to store event data; and
a management module coupled to the group of devices and the event log, wherein a current state of each device in the group of devices is evaluated by the management module before the event-handling policy is applied to the device.

As discussed above, although Natarajan discloses modules that include policies and the evaluation of those policies, Natarajan fails to disclose assigning devices to a group and evaluating a current state of each device in the group before applying a policy assigned to the group to the device. Thus, Natarajan fails to disclose the management module as recited in Claim 10.

Natarajan describes a data store for storing network control information. (See Natarajan, col. 12, lines 13-17). However, Natarajan fails to disclose an apparatus that includes the group of device, the event log, and the management module, as recited in Claim 10.

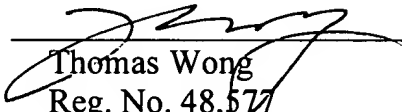
For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 10 is not anticipated by Natarajan and is allowable. Given that Claims 11-17 depend from Claim 10, Claims 11-17 are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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